EDUC 2120: SOCIOCULTURAL DIVERSITY IN EDUCATION

Professor: Marcus E. Johnson
Meeting Place and Time: T/R 11:00-12:15 Bowen 206
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Office Hours: Fridays 10-3; Monday & Wednesday 10-10:30

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Given the rapidly changing demographics in our state and country, this course is designed to equip future teachers with the fundamental knowledge of understanding culture and teaching children from diverse backgrounds. Specifically, this course is designed to examine 1.) The nature and function of culture; 2.) The development of individual and group cultural identity; 3.) Definition and implications of diversity; 4.) The influences of culture on learning, development and pedagogy. Ten hours of field experience are required.

PREREQUISITE/CO-REQUISITES

ENGL 1101 with a “C” or better; at least 15 semester hours of academic credit with a minimum of a 2.0 GPA.

COURSE GOALS/COMPETENCIES

1. Examine the nature and function of culture.
2. Explore how history and culture shape worldviews.
3. Examine the development of one’s own cultural identity and learning styles.
4. Develop and apply strategies for observing, analyzing, and comparing differences related to family structures, socioeconomic status, abilities/disabilities and culture.
5. Articulate strategies for teaching culturally diverse students in the classroom.
6. Identify schools’ and educators’ cultural practices, policies, and expectations that perpetuate and maintain achievement gaps.
7. Identify strategies that creatively deal with challenges and differences between the cultures of educators and students.
COURSE TEXT

Human Diversity in Education: An Integrative Approach. Cushner, McClelland, Safford

GRADING

- Reading Quizzes: 10 points
- Presentation on The development of my cultural identity: 10 points
- Paper on How history and culture shape world views: 20 points
- Essay that describes one’s own learning profile: 10 points
- Differentiated Teaching Project: 25 points
- Final: Research Paper on the Achievement Gap: 25 points
- If a student does not complete all of the ten observation hours required by this course, the student will receive an F.

POLICIES

Attendance

Regular attendance is expected. Any student who misses more than four classes will receive an F for the course. If you must miss a class on a day that an assignment is due, it is your responsibility to arrange for the assignment to be turned in on time. Quizzes missed due to absence may not be made up and the student will receive a grade of zero for that assignment unless the professor is notified of the absence by email at least 30 minutes prior to the start of class. If a student misses class when a presentation is assigned, the student will receive a zero for the presentation unless arrangements are made with the professor prior to class.

Class Participation and Preparedness

Participation is expected. People participate differently. For some, participation involves careful reading and the completion of assignments. Others are more social and vocal. In order for you to get the most out of this class, you should complete all assignments with diligence and should come to class ready to ask questions and make comments. If we are working in small groups or discussing an issue in a whole-class setting, contribute in ways that will help you grow as person, student, and future professional. And remember that growth is not always entirely comfortable: it requires challenging and overcoming your own self. Finally, do not text in class. Doing so is very rude and indicates a lack of self-discipline. Students texting in class may be asked to leave and will be counted absent for that class. If there is some potential emergency that would require you to look at your phone, speak with me before class.

College Policy on Academic Dishonesty:

A. Academic Dishonesty
Academic irregularities include, but are not limited to, giving or receiving of unauthorized assistance in the preparation of any academic assignment; taking or attempting to take, stealing, or otherwise obtaining in an unauthorized manner any material pertaining to the education process; selling, giving, lending, or otherwise furnishing to any person any question and/or answers to any examination known to be scheduled at any subsequent date; fabricating, forging, or falsifying lab or clinical results; plagiarism in any form related to themes, essays, term papers, tests, and other assignments; breaching any confidentiality regarding patient information.

B. Disciplinary Procedures

1. When a faculty member suspects that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty, the faculty member will contact the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs. The Vice President for Academic Affairs will notify the student in writing of the report and will appoint a neutral person from among the faculty or staff to meet with the faculty member who reported the matter and the student(s) believed to have engaged in academic dishonesty. The purpose of the meeting, to be scheduled by the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, will be to provide a facilitated discussion about what may have occurred. The faculty member who reported the matter, the student(s) believed to have engaged in academic dishonesty, and the facilitator are the only participants in the meeting. Audio nor video recordings of these proceedings will be permitted. Following the discussion, the facilitator will submit a form summarizing results of the proceedings to the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

2. The faculty member and student(s) may reach an agreement about the matter and, if dishonesty is involved, may determine the appropriate consequences. If no resolution is agreed upon, the matter will be forwarded to the Dean of Student Life and Housing, who will convene the Student Judiciary Committee to determine the outcome of the allegation.

3. Guidelines for disciplinary procedures as outlined in Section V of the Student Code of Conduct will be applicable in cases involving alleged academic dishonesty. A written copy of the recommendations by the Student Judiciary Committee shall be sent not only to the student but also to the faculty member who made the allegations of academic dishonesty against the student, to the Vice President for Academic Affairs, and to the President.

4. Prior to any finding of responsibility on the part of the student, the faculty member shall permit the student to complete all required academic work and shall evaluate and grade all work except the assignment(s) involved in the accusation of dishonesty. The faculty member may, however, take any action reasonably necessary to collect and preserve evidence of the alleged violation and to maintain or restore the integrity of exam or laboratory conditions.

5. A student may not withdraw from a course to avoid penalty of plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty.

C. Appeals Process

Students have the right to appeal a Student Judiciary Committee hearing recommendation in accordance with the following procedures:
1. Requests for appeals must be submitted in writing to the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs within five business days of the date of the letter notifying the student of the original decision. Failure to appeal within the allotted time will render the original decision final and conclusive.

2. Written requests for appeals must be specific and detailed as to the nature and substance of the student’s complaint and must clearly indicate what action is requested. The written request should specify the grounds for appeal. Judicial recommendations may be appealed on the following grounds:
   - A violation of due process
   - Prejudicial treatment by the original hearing body
   - New evidence has become available which was not available at the time of the hearing.

3. Appeals shall be decided upon the record of the original proceedings, the written appeal submitted by the defendant, and any written briefs submitted by other participants. Cases will not be reheard on appeal.

4. If the student is dissatisfied with the decision of the Vice President for Student Affairs, the student may request in writing that the President consider the appeal, but such request must be made within five business days of the Vice President’s decision or the Vice President’s decision will be considered final and conclusive.

5. Within five business days of receiving the appeal, the President will either rule on the appeal or refer the appeal to a special Presidential Panel. The Presidential Panel will review all facts and circumstances connected with the case and within five business days make a report of its findings to the President. After consideration of the Panel’s report, the President will within five business days make a decision which shall be final so far as the College is concerned.

6. Should the student be dissatisfied with the President’s decision, written application may be made to the Board of Regents for a review of the decision. This application must be submitted within twenty days following the decision of the President. Additional information regarding procedures for appealing to the Board is available in the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs. The decision of the Board shall be final and binding for all purposes.

**Accommodation**

If you have specific needs because of learning or other disabilities, please inform the instructor.

**INSTITUTIONAL ABSENCES**

A student who serves as an official representative of the college is defined as one who:

1. is authorized to use the college name in public relationships outside the institution;

2. regularly interacts with non-college individuals and groups over an extended period of time (at least one semester);
3. represents the college as a part of a group and not as an individual;

4. represents the college under the direct supervision of a college faculty or staff member; and

5. is authorized in writing, in advance, by the President of the college.

Such a student is in no way released from the obligations and responsibilities of all students, but will not be penalized with unexcused absences when absences result from regularly scheduled activities in which he/she represents the college.

Further, it is the responsibility of each student to contact instructors prior to the absence and to make arrangements to make up any work that will be missed, in a manner acceptable to the instructor. Advisors of activities will schedule off-campus activities in a manner that does not unduly disrupt the learning process for a student.

Weather Hotline: 229-391-5225